

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Because of this we, the viewers, are the ones who suffer due to the lack of unbiased programming. The American public should not be forced to sit through propaganda-like programming that only reflect the views of one side. Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. There should be more representation of the various cross sections of our society in the programs that we, as American viewers, see. Then the public interest would truly be served. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.